

City of Albuquerque
Environmental Health Department
Director - 768-2600

Albuquerque / Bernalillo County Air
Quality Control Board
768-2600

Air Quality Division Manager
768-1930

Important Phone Numbers
Air Quality Index & Pollen
768-4731 opt 1 or 766-7664
Burn/No Burn 768-BURN (2876)

Ambient Air
Monitoring - 768-1969
♦ National Ambient Air Quality
Standards
♦ AQI & Seasonal Pollen

Compliance
& Field Enforcement - 768-1930
♦ Facility Inspection
♦ Topsoil Disturbance
♦ Compliance Assurance
♦ Asbestos Abatement
♦ Open Burn Permits
♦ Woodburning Exemptions

Education, Outreach & Technical
Assistance - 768-1970
♦ Pollution Prevention
♦ Emergency Preparedness
♦ Community Outreach
♦ Small Business Assistance
♦ *The Air Shed* Newsletter

Permitting & Emission Inventories -
768-1930
♦ Application Review & Permit Issuance
♦ Permitting Policy / Development
♦ Ambient Air Dispersion Modeling
♦ Emission and Pollutant Inventories
♦ Aerometric Information Retrieval
System [AIRS]

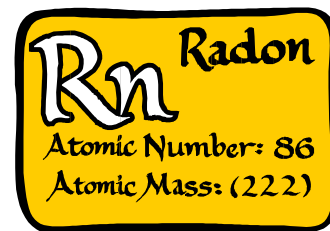
Control Strategies- 768-2600
♦ Development of Air Quality Regulations
♦ Preparation of State Implementation
Plan elements
♦ Air Quality Control Board
♦ Review Federal environmental
assessments

Public Health
Initiatives - 767-5621
♦ Air Quality Complaints
♦ Indoor Air

Quality Assurance - 768-1963
♦ EPA Reporting
♦ Review & Validation of Data
♦ Air Quality Trends Analysis

National Radon (Rn) Action Month

Long-term exposure to radon is the second-most leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. January is National Radon Action Month. It is important that you understand the risks associated with radon and that you take the necessary precautions to protect yourself and your loved ones from the hazards that radon poses.



Radon gas is colorless, odorless and tasteless. It is a radioactive gas formed by the natural radioactive decay of uranium or thorium in rock, soil, and water. Radon gas, once emitted from uranium or thorium, will, itself, decay into radioactive particles called radon daughters or progenitors. Some of the short-lived radon daughters attach themselves to small particles in the air, which can be inhaled deep into the lungs. The radon daughter particles may then damage dividing or newly-formed lung cells, leading to the eventual development of lung cancer. Breathing radon causes **no short-term** health effects such as shortness of breath, coughing, headaches or fever.

Radon poses little or no risk out-of-doors where air circulation prevents concentration of the gas. Indoors, radon can become concentrated to unhealthy levels. Radon gas can seep into the home through dirt floors, cracks in concrete foundations and walls, floor drains, sump pumps and joints. Radon gas can also accumulate in private wells and be released into the home when water is used. The levels of radon present in the home depend on the level of radon in the soil or water, the rate that it leaks into the home, and the rate at which radon is removed from the home through ventilation.

EPA states that any radon exposure carries some risk; no level of radon exposure is always safe. However, EPA recommends homes be fixed if an occupant's long-term exposure will average 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) or higher. A pCi is a measure of the rate of radioactive decay of radon. One pCi is one trillionth of a Curie, 0.037 disintegrations per second, or 2.22 disintegrations per minute. Therefore, at 4 pCi/L (picocuries per liter, EPA's recommended action level), there will be approximately 12,672 radioactive disintegrations in one liter of air during a 24-hour period. Nearly one in fifteen homes has a radon level considered elevated by EPA's standards.

While trace amounts of radon are present everywhere, certain areas of the country have higher levels of radon than others. **Any** home may have elevated radon levels. New and old homes, well-sealed and drafty homes, and homes with or without basements can all have high levels of radon. Homes below the third floor of a multi-family building are particularly at risk. Bernalillo County, as well as several other northern counties in northern New Mexico are known to have levels of radon in excess of 4 pCi/L present in the soil. Radon levels can vary dramatically from one home to the next. **The only way to know if your home has elevated levels of radon is to test for it.**

Do-it-yourself radon test kits are available at most home-improvement and hardware stores and at other retail outlets. The kits are inexpensive and easy to use. Or, if you prefer, a qualified professional can be hired to perform the tests. Check your yellow pages under "Radon Testing" to find a professional in your area.

Indoor Air Quality and Radon Contacts

NM Environment Department
Radon Outreach Coordinator
Michael A. Taylor
505-827-1093

Michael_taylor@nmenv.state.nm.us

City of Albuquerque
Air Quality Division
Louis Jaramillo
505-768-1972

Vljaramillo@cabq.gov

AIR QUALITY CONTROL BOARD REPORT

Summary of Activities* December 8, 2004 Meeting of the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board

Members Present:

Dr. Betty Chang, Vice Chair
Dr. Johnnye Lewis
Dr. Donald Naranjo
Dr. Stephen Pilon
Ms. Sue Umschler, Esq., Chair
Ms. Karen Wentworth

Hearings:

Continuation of October 26th combined hearings regarding the Environmental Health Department's *Motion to Dismiss* two *Petitions for Variance* that were filed by Thermogenics, Inc. The two *Petitions for Variance* that were filed, request variances from the requirements of the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board Regulations: 20.11.2 NMAC, Fees; 20.11.40 NMAC, Source Registration; 20.11.41 NMAC, Authority to Construct; and 20.11.42 NMAC Operating Permits respectively.

Board considered Thermogenics' "*Supplemental Response to Motion to Dismiss, Motion to Reconsider*".

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Action Items:

Decision regarding Motion to Dismiss filed for the two petitions for Variance filed by Thermogenics, Inc. Member Umshler moved to accept the *Hearing Officers Findings and Recommendations* and to dismiss Thermogenics' Petition for Variance Fee Request of Waiver and Petition for Variance from Permit Requirements, seconded by Member Naranjo. Passed 5 for, 0 against, 1 abstain.

Member Umshler moved to approve EHD's proposed *Order Dismissing Without Prejudice Thermogenics' "Petition for Variance Fee-Request of Waiver-20.11.2.18.J NMC"*, and proposed *Order Dismissing Without Prejudice Thermogenics' "Petition for Variance" From Registration and Permitting Requirements*, seconded by Member Naranjo. Motion was amended to reflect the following: strike the word "gasification" from Orders; insert the date 12/8/04; reduce payment due-date from 45 to 30 days; strike reasons 'A' through 'D' in the Fees Order and reletter 'E' & 'F' as 'A' & 'B'. Member Umshler moved to accept amendments to the Orders, seconded by Member Chang. Motion to adopt Orders of Dismissal as amended passed 5 for, 0 against, 1 abstain.

Albuquerque / Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board

Board Members & Staff

Stephen Pilon, City
Karen Wentworth, County
Johnnye Lewis - County
Sue Umshler - County (Chair)
Betty Chang - City (Vice Chair)
Donald Naranjo - City
Vacant - City

Martin J. Chávez, Mayor
City of Albuquerque

Alfredo Santistevan, Director
Environmental Health Department

Isreal L. Tavarez
Air Quality Division Manager/
Secretary to the Board

Adelia Kearny
Assistant City Attorney

Glen Dennis
Vehicle Pollution Management Division Manager

Jens Deichmann
Environmental Planning Commission Liaison

Monthly Board Meetings

Board meetings are usually held the second Wednesday of each month at 5:15 p.m. in the Council/Commission Chambers, lower level, Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Government Center, 1 Civic Plaza, 400 Marquette Avenue NW Albuquerque, NM.

Agendas, which will show the correct date and meeting place, are generally available three days before the meeting and can be obtained by contacting Mr. Neal Butt at 505-768-2660 or via e-mail at: nbutt@cabq.gov.

Notice to persons with disabilities: If you have a disability and require special assistance to participate in any Board meeting please call the Air Quality Division at 505-768-2600 (Voice) or 505-768-2482 (TTY)

Vehicle Pollution Management Division Report

Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program:

Two new Air Care Stations opened in December. The new stations are A & C Emissions at 5917 Edith Blvd. NE (just North of Montano) and Quality Lube at 4019 Isleta Blvd. SW (near Rio Bravo). A & C Emissions is a new building adjacent to MVD Specialists a private contractor MVD office. Quality Lube has operated for many years at the Isleta location as an oil change and light repair facility.

January 1st marked another phase in date for the new test protocol. Effective January 1st the test software automatically required gas cap testing of all vehicles more than four years old. Previously, only non-OBDII vehicles (1975 - 1995) which were subject to the two-speed exhaust test received a gas cap test. The On-Board Diagnostic (OBDII) system on 1996 and newer vehicles is required to monitor the entire evaporative emission system on the vehicle including the gas cap. However, pressurized gas cap tests like the one done here in Albuquerque are more effective at detecting leaking caps. Consequently, EPA strongly recommends states conduct pressurized gas cap tests even on OBDII vehicles. VPMD plans to review the local data after we have at least six months of gas cap testing on OBDII vehicles to see if the additional gas cap failures and resulting emissions reductions justify the added test time.

VPMD issued a Notice of Intent to Suspend the certification of an inspector at Express Emissions on San Mateo SE for failing to physically inspect a vehicle and passing a missing catalytic converter and for refusing to complete a vehicle test and provide the customer with an official test when it became apparent the vehicle was going to fail the test. The inspector has fifteen days to appeal the Notice or request an administrative hearing on the merits.

Required emission testing is now being implemented in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Testing has been required for many years in the Memphis and Nashville areas.

Air Care Inspector Training Program:

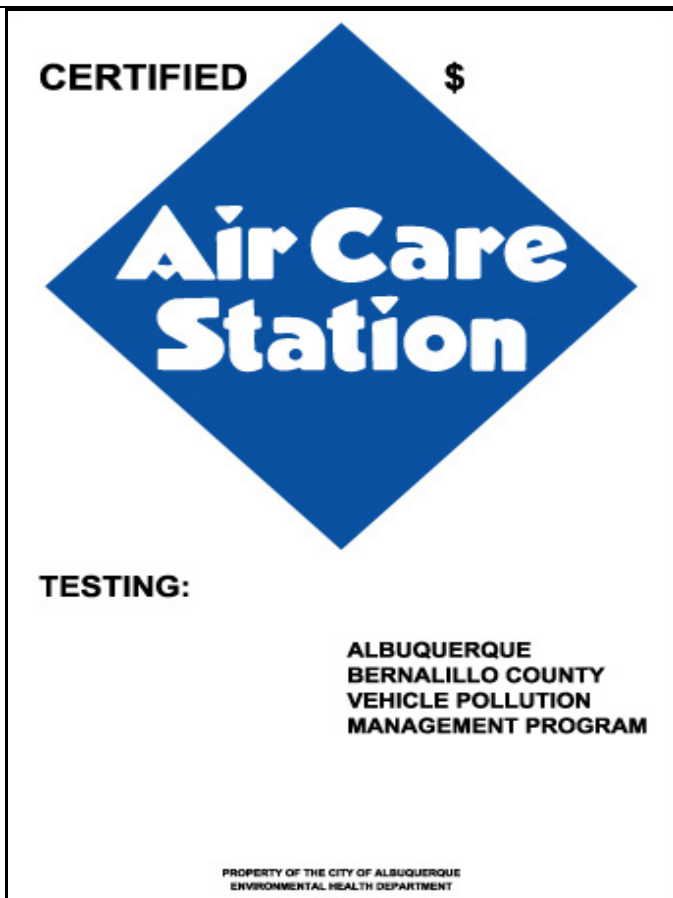
Eleven prospective Air Care Inspectors attended the December session of the inspector certification course. Ten of the students passed both the written and practical examinations and were certified by VPMD as Air Care Inspectors. Ironically, the one student who did not pass the course was previously certified as an emission inspector in Tennessee.

Alternative Fuels:

The City of Albuquerque recently used a state energy grant to purchase an additional nine gas/electric hybrid Honda Civic sedans. The new diesel/electric hybrid Rapid Ride buses also began service on Central Ave in December.

2004 was a record year for increased production of ethanol. Nationally, twelve new ethanol plants came on line and an additional twelve commenced construction. The new plants combined with several plant expansions resulted in the addition of over 500 million gallons of annual production capacity.

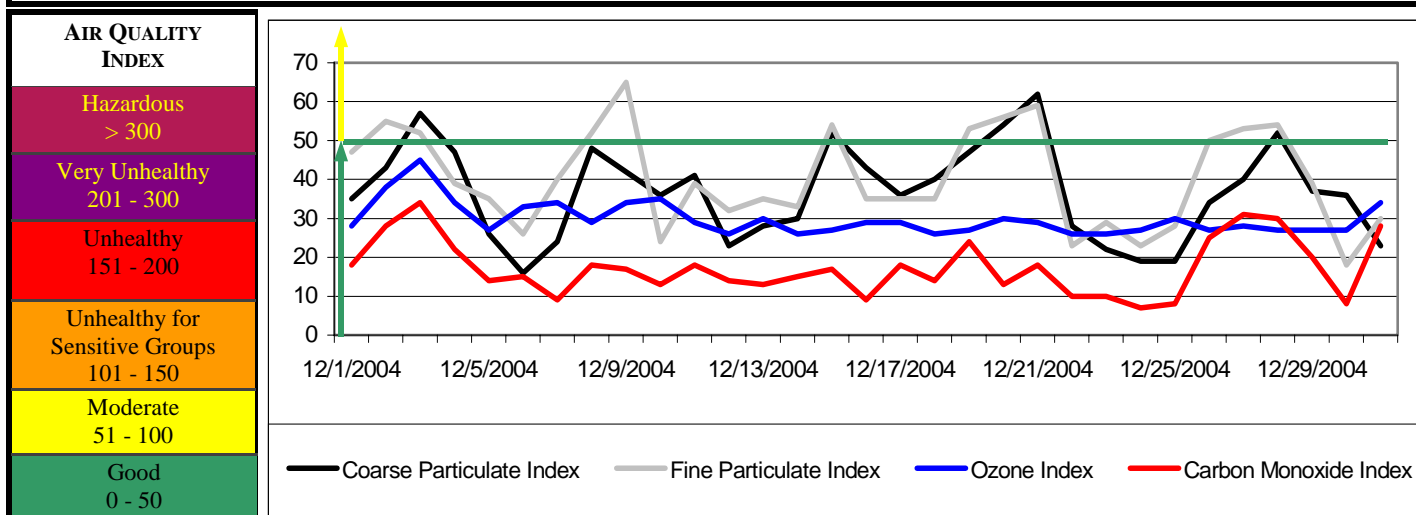
The 10th Annual National Ethanol Conference will be held February 7 -9, 2005 in Scottsdale, Arizona. VPMD staff provided presentations and displays at the conference when it was held in Albuquerque in 1998. Information about the conference is available at www.ethanolRFA.org/nec.shtml.



AIR QUALITY DATA FOR DECEMBER, 2004

The Air Quality Index [AQI] values indicate how clean or polluted ambient air is, and if there are any health concerns associated with a specific value. The AQI in Bernalillo County is measured for four [4] nationally regulated air pollutants: Carbon Monoxide [CO], Ozone [O₃], Coarse Particulate [PM₁₀] and Fine Particulate [PM_{2.5}].

As shown by the graph below, AQI values were "Good" to "Moderate" in December, which means that air pollutants at this level pose little or no health risks to our community, but those members of our community who already have respiratory problems may be slightly affected. Thus, as the values increase into a higher category, health risks will similarly increase. As you may have guessed, the last category, "Hazardous", with AQI values greater than 300, is very serious and can be detrimental to the health of the whole community even if emergency health warnings are triggered. Call the [Air Quality Information Line](#) at 766-7664 or 768-4731 Option 1 to get today's AQI Values.



Emerging Technologies

Honda Motor Co. announced in late 2004 that it has developed a small motor scooter powered by a fuel cell (pictured on the right). The small fuel cell (FC), dubbed an FC stack by Honda, is designed to replace the traditional 125cc gasoline engine normally used in this small motor scooter. The FC stack is patterned after the FC used in Honda's automobiles and is easily accommodated in the small vehicle. Honda is working to develop an even smaller and more powerful FC that, when installed in small scooters like the one pictured here, will provide the same range and power as a comparable gasoline-powered scooter.



Honda has also developed a small scooter powered by a gasoline-electric hybrid powerplant. The little scooter provides 1.6 times the fuel economy of a traditional gasoline engine of comparable power and produces 37% less carbon monoxide. The power produced by the hybrid propulsion unit rivals that of a gasoline engine enabling the little vehicle to climb grades easily.

Honda has developed an environmentally friendly electric moped prototype designed for convenient city driving and commuting. One step closer to a production electric bike for the general public, the prototype could eventually lead to a mass-market vehicle.



Message From The Mayor

The New Year is a good time to reflect on the past and to plan for the future. It's important to stop and take stock once in the while. Looking back on our community's air quality history over the last few decades will reveal some interesting facts that can help us plan for the future health of our citizens and the preservation of our precious air resource.

Initially, air monitoring data collected here during the late 1970's showed elevated levels of carbon monoxide, a poisonous gas most-often produced by cars and trucks and also by wood-burning. Those old muscle cars we drove in those days were a lot of fun but were pretty bad for the environment. After a series of exceedances of the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS), Bernalillo County was classified as nonattainment for carbon monoxide in 1979. Our local officials responded to those violations by implementing control measures such as our vehicle emissions testing, oxy-fuels, and no-burn programs, strategies designed to lessen carbon monoxide emissions. Those programs, coupled with cleaner-running cars and trucks, allowed us to lower our ambient levels of carbon monoxide to below federal standards, an achievement that should make us very proud. Not very many communities around the country have been as successful in that arena as we have been. Ambient levels of carbon monoxide have since steadily dropped, allowing Bernalillo County to regain federal attainment status for carbon monoxide in 1996. But we can't afford to become complacent. There is a new threat to our air quality on the horizon.

Over the past few years, our ambient air monitoring network measured a slow, but steady, increase in particulate matter, which, in our case, is plain old fugitive dust. Unless we take immediate and effective measures to control fugitive dust in our airshed, we could soon be facing potential violations of the federal standard for Particulate Matter, or PM10 (particles equal to or less than 10 microns in diameter).

As our thriving community develops, its potential impact on the environment grows as well. While some dust is normal and expected in arid climates like ours, the natural desert soils that exist here have been crusted over by centuries of natural weathering, and, if left undisturbed, don't release large amounts of fugitive dust in windy situations. But, the expansion of our community and the activities that accompany it break that fragile crust. Our soils, once disturbed, are easily picked up (entrained) by the gusty winds so common here, especially in spring and summer at the peak of the construction season. While larger particles (those that are easily seen by the naked eye) quickly settle out of the air, the smaller but more dangerous and respirable particles can remain suspended in the air for long periods of time and pose serious threats to the respiratory and cardiovascular systems of many of our citizens.

Recent research on the health risks associated with inhalation of small particles has prompted the Federal government to tighten the ambient air quality standards for fine-grained particulate matter. Should our community violate the new standards, we will be obligated to impose more rigid restrictions mandated by federal law. If we act now to curb dust in our community, we can avoid the looming violations and retain local authority to enact laws and programs that make sense in our community, rather than those imposed upon us. That's why it's important that we respond quickly and effectively to lower fugitive dust in our community.

The Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board has responded to this need by working closely with local stakeholders and with the experts at our Air Quality Division to develop the new Fugitive Dust regulation that became effective this past March. The new regulation not only contains new and updated requirements for land disturbance associated with new construction, but now includes identifying the other major contributors of fugitive dust. As this article goes to press, Air Quality Division is scheduling workshops for February 9th and 17th that will help our construction industry and all the rest of us become more familiar with the requirements of the new regulations and raise our awareness of effective strategies to control fugitive dust.

For more information or to register for one of the four workshops, call 768-1972. For more information about fugitive dust and what you can do to control it, visit the City's website at www.cabq.gov/airquality or EPA's website at www.epa.gov/airnow/particle/airborne.html



Mayor Martin J. Chávez



EPA De-Lists Chemicals from Regulated Pollutants

After rigorous scrutiny, EPA has de-listed the following chemicals from its list of regulated pollutants. EPA concluded that these chemicals pose less risk than previously thought and that reclassifying them would not compromise public health, and may even benefit public health if they are substituted for more toxic or environmentally damaging chemicals.



EGBE De-listing: EGBE, or ethylene glycol butyl ether, is used in hydraulic fluids and in water-based coatings for various industries including metal can manufacturers. It is also used in varnishes, vinyl and acrylic paints, and as a solvent for varnishes, enamels, spray lacquers, dry cleaning compounds, textiles and cosmetics. EPA received a petition in 1997 from the American Chemistry Council to de-list EGBE. After extensively reviewing the levels of EGBE in the air and the health and environmental impacts associated with those levels, EPA has concluded that potential outdoor exposures to EGBE may not reasonably be anticipated to cause human health or environmental problems. This action follows two detailed reviews on the sufficiency and technical merit of a 1997 petition to remove EGBE from the list. Although EGBE use (and, therefore, emissions) may increase as a result of this action, this action creates incentives for industry to use EGBE instead of other more toxic solvents. Firms must still report EGBE under the Toxics Release Inventory and EPA will continue to regulate it as a VOC.

TBAC Exemption: TBAC, or t-butyl acetate, is a chemical that is currently used to make pharmaceuticals, pesticides, and other products and that also can be used as a solvent in a variety of applications. EPA received a petition from Lyondell Chemical (formerly ARCO Chemical) in 1997 asking EPA to consider excluding TBAC from the VOC definition. After extensive review, EPA has determined that TBAC meets the criteria used to define a compound as “negligibly reactive.” Exclusion of this compound as a VOC will help states focus on controlling emissions of those pollutants that are demonstrated to be ozone precursors. In addition, a number of manufacturers of paints, inks, and adhesives have indicated that if TBAC were excluded from regulation as a VOC, they would use it in their products in place of other compounds that are as much as 20 to 30 times more likely to form ground-level ozone, or smog. Such substitutions will help decrease ground-level ozone formation, generating public health benefits.

Additional Compounds: EPA is excluding HFE-7000, HFE-7500, HFC 227ea and methyl formate from control as VOCs. These compounds, which are used as refrigerants, fire suppressants, and propellants, contribute little or nothing to ground-level ozone formation. All four of these compounds are environmentally preferable substitutes for chlorofluorocarbons (CFC) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC), which contribute to the destruction of Earth’s stratospheric ozone layer.

In a separate action, EPA is taking phosmet off the “Extremely Hazardous Substance” (EHS) list under section 302 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) and will no longer be subject to reporting requirements under that section (e.g. notifying their State Emergency Response Commission and Local Emergency Planning Committee that they are subject to the emergency planning provisions of EPCRA section 302 for the chemical phosmet). Phosmet is a non-systemic organophosphate insecticide used for agricultural crop protection of fruit, nut and certain field crops. Phosmet is still a “hazardous chemical” under section 311 and 312 requirements, except when it is used in routine agricultural operations, such as a pesticide applied on crops. Therefore, facilities that process or distribute phosmet would still be subject to EPCRA section 311 and 312 reporting requirements (inventory and material safety data sheets) if they have phosmet present in amounts equal to or greater than 10,000 pounds. This action does not alter EPA’s ongoing regulation of phosmet under the Agency’s existing pesticide regulatory program. Forty-six chemicals have been deleted from the list since its inception because they did not meet the toxicity criteria.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

EGBE: Copies of the original petition and its supporting information are available for public inspection and copying at the following address: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (6102), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20460. For further information including the final rule and the Federal Register notice once published, go to EPA’s web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/airlinks/airlinks1.html> .

TBAC: Interested parties can download the rule from the EPA’s web site on the Internet under “recent actions” at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/airlinks/airlinks1.html> .

Additional Compounds: Interested parties can download the final rule from EPA’s web site on the Internet under “recent actions” at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/airlinks/airlinks1.html> .

Phosmet: For more information on phosmet, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/op/phosmet.htm> . For information on the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act, go to: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/oswer/ceppoweb.nsf/content/epcraOverview.htm> .



MAIL TO:

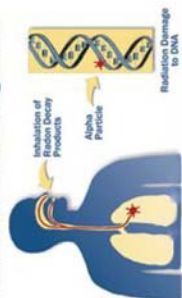
We'd Like To Hear From You With Comments On This Newsletter!
Please Call The Education, Outreach & Technical Assistance Section At 768-1941.

January '05

RADON

January is National Radon Action Month.

How Radon Causes Lung Cancer



- Radon is an invisible, odorless, radioactive gas created from the natural decay of uranium in soils.
- Nearly one in 15 homes in the U.S. has a high level of indoor radon.
- Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer.
- The U.S. Surgeon General and EPA recommend all homes be tested for radon.
- EPA's most recent health risk assessment estimates that 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year are due to radon.

Radon enters a house through

1. Cracks in solid floors
2. Construction joints
3. Cracks in walls
4. Gaps around service pipes
5. Gaps in suspended floors
6. Cavities inside walls
7. The water supply

Are you interested in obtaining a test kit for your home or business?

Call 768-1972

Or call EPA's Radon Information Line at 1-800-SOS-RADON & visit <http://www.epa.gov/radon/>



**City of Albuquerque
Environmental Health Department
Air Quality Division**

Martin J. Chaves, Mayor



**Alfreda E. Santistevan
Director**

Notice to persons with disabilities: If you have a disability and require special assistance, please call (505) 768-1940 (voice) or (505) 768-1941 (TDD). If you are a TTY user, please call the New Mexico relay at 1-800-659-8331.